accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of External Affairs.

(d) Ten documents were issued at the Shanghai summit including a Declaration and a Joint Communique. With reference to the issues related to security and counter-terrorism, the Declaration *inter alia* states that SCO Member States would "not allow their territories to be used to undermine the sovereignty, security or territorial integrity of other member states, and they prohibit activities by organizations or gangs in their territories that are detrimental to the interests of other member states". With regard to energy, the Declaration welcomed "participation by relevant partners in specific projects in priority areas like energy". The Summit approved a cooperation programme of SCO members to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Simplification of certificate authentication for going abroad

2141. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that aspirants intending to go abroad have to run from pillar to post for getting the authentication of certificates done from many authorities; and

(b) whether Government would simplify the procedure and decentralize this so that the aspirants could get this done in their State capitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The present system of authentication of certificates involves minimum steps required to ensure that genuine certificates are authenticated as expeditiously as possible. It is also intended to prevent forged/fake certificates from being authenticated; and

(b) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to simplify the procedure related to the authentication of certificates. Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa have been authorized to authenticate educational documents.